

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
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R 140757Z MAY 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4543
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0790

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI VIEW OF LONDON AND GENEVA SUMMITS

1. SUMMARY: IRAQI MEDIA HAVE TAKEN HOSTILE LINE IN REPORT-
ING ON LONDON SUMMIT OF INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND ON
CARTER-ASAD MEETING IN GENEVA. END SUMMARY.

2. GIST OF COMMENT ON LONDON SUMMIT WAS ALLEGATION
THAT USG WAS SEEKING TO PROP UP COLLAPSING AMERICAN
ECONOMY BY RALLYING CAPITALIST WORLD TO TAKE FIRM
STAND AGAINST JUST CLAIMS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS. MOST
COMMENTATORS CONCLUDED THAT THESE EFFORTS WOULD FAIL
AND THAT COLLAPSE OF CAPITALIST WORLD WAS INEVITABLE.
SOME REPORTAGE, AND ESPECIALLY A HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL TV
SPECIAL, HAD EARMARKS OF HANDOUTS FROM SOVIET
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SOURCES. COMMENT: IRAQI ECONOMY HAS BEEN STRONGLY
REORIENTED TOWARD WEST IN RECENT YEARS, AND CONSUMER
PREFERENCE IS VERY STRONG FOR GOODS OF
"CAPITALIST WORLD." WE BELIEVE THAT BLATANT
OVERKILL BY LOCAL MEDIA, WHICH IS LARGELY DOMINATED
BY LEFTISTS, WAS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE ON THIS SUBJECT
AND THAT IRAQI ECONOMIC DECISION MAKERS TOOK A FAR

MORE NUANCED VIEW OF LONDON SUMMIT. END COMMENT.

3. AS PREDICTED BY USINT, GENEVA MEETING WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD BECAME SUBJECT OF MEDIA ATTACKS INTENDED TO BLACKEN ASAD'S REPUTATION BY TARRING SYRIA WITH THE AMERICAN BRUSH. TREATMENT CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: ASAD IS MAKING DISGRACEFUL CONCESSIONS AT EXPENSE OF SACRED ARAB INTERESTS. CARTER IS LEADING HIM ON WITH FALSE HINTS OF USG WILLINGNESS TO PRESSURE ISRAEL BUT WILL IN END BETRAY HIM AND OTHER ARABS SEEKING SETTLEMENT. REAL USG POSITION IS STILL IDENTICAL TO ISRAEL'S. CARTER APPEALS TO ASAD'S VANITY BY MAKING IT APPEAR THAT ASAD PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS (ONE CARTOON SHOWED CIA AND ISRAEL PUMPING UP SYRIAN REGIME LIKE A BALLOON). ARAB MASSES WILL, HOWEVER, REJECT CONSPIRACIES TO LIQUIDATE THE PALESTINE ISSUE.

4. COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN FULLER THAN USUAL WITH EXTENSIVE, ALBIET SELECTIVE, DIRECT QUOTATIONS. MUTUAL PRAISE BY TWO PRESIDENTS IS PRESENTED AS IF IT WERE PROOF OF THEIR COLLUSION. GOVERNMENT OWNED AL-JUMHURIYA DRIVES POINT HOME WITH EDITORIAL STATING, "WHAT ASAD AND CARTER INTEND TO DISCUSS IS WAYS AND MEANS OF PUSHING THROUGH THE LIQUIDATIONIST CONSPIRACY IN SUCH A MANNER AS CAN ASSURE TO THE ZIONIST ENTITY UNBRIDLED EXPANSIONISM AND TO

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AMERICAN IMPERIALISM THE REALIZATION OF ITS GREEDY DESIGNS." SARCASTIC AND BITTER TONE OF MEDIA TREATMENT IS PERHAPS BEST CONVEYED BY LINE FROM EDITORIAL IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE BAGHDAD OBSERVER OF SEVERAL DAYS AGO WHICH NOTED THAT TWO PRESIDENTS WERE "SCHEDULED TO EMBRACE ON MONDAY".

5. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE TOO EASY TO DISMISS IRAQI ATTACKS ON GENEVA MEETING AS SOUR GRAPES ON PART OF COUNTRY WHICH IS OUT OF THE ACTION. IRAQIS CONTINUE TO TAKE SATISFACTION IN THEIR BELIEF THAT ALL WILL COME TO NAUGHT AND SETTLEMENT REGIMES WILL BE EXPOSED AS EITHER DUPES OR PARTNERS OF U.S. AND ISRAEL. TO ILLUSTRATE THAT IRAQ IS NOT WITHOUT FORA FOR PRACTICING ITS OWN BRAND OF DIPLOMACY, GOI HAS SENT A STRONG DELEGATION TO WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE IN WARSAW. WHILE MOST MEMBERS OF IRAQI DELEGATION ARE KNOWN COMMUNISTS OR OTHER LEFTISTS, PRESIDENT BAKR LEFT NO DOUBT THAT CONFER-

ENCE HAD HIS BLESSING. HIS HIGHLY PUBLICIZED CABLE
TO CONFERENCE SOUNDED LOCALLY FAMILIAR THEME
THAT PEOPLES OF WORLD MUST CONFRONT CONSPIRACY
OF ZIONISM AND REACTION LED BY U.S. IMPERIALISM.
WILEY

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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